MARVEL
DAREDEVIL
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60¢
U.K. 30p
CAN. 75¢
209
AUG
KEEP AWAY!
HELP ME!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **DAREDEVIL**, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

LAST NIGHT DAREDEVIL WAS ALMOST IMPALED ON A WALL OF SPIKES, SWAM OUT OF A POOL OF QUICKSAND, DANCED UP A ROW OF MACHETE BLADES, AND--NOT INCIDENTALLY--CONQUERED HIS GREATEST FEARS.

TONIGHT HE'S RECUPERATING!

MY ACHING BACK! IF I WERE ANY STIFFER, I'D BE RESTING UP IN THE MORGUE.

WHAT'S THAT? SOMEONE RUNNING?

KA BOOOM

BLAST FROM THE PAST!

From an idea by HARLAN ELLISON

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DAREDEVIL™ Vol. 1, No. 209, August, 1984. (U.S.P.S. 148-440) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published monthly. Copyright © 1984 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 60¢ per copy in the U.S. and 75¢ in Canada. Subscription rate $7.20 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $9.20. Printed in the U.S.A.
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POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO DAREDEVIL, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.

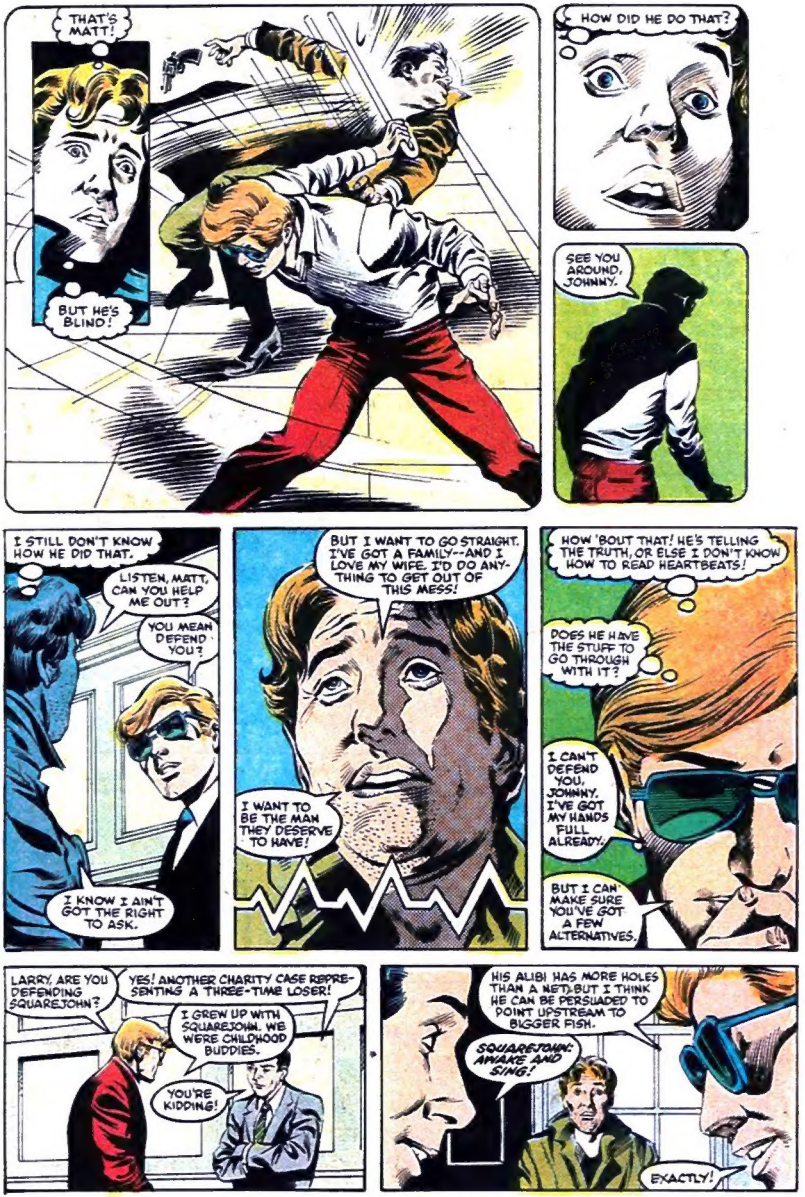
EXPLOSION...CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD... SENSES REELING...
COME ON, MATT... FLIP OVER... GET YOUR BALANCE!
AND FLY AWAY!
CRR RUNCH!!
NO BONES BROKEN, BUT I'VE GOT AT LEAST SEVEN SPLINTERS BURIED IN ME. I'LL LIVE, BUT I WON'T BE TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT FOR AWHILE.
SOMEBODY'S GOING TO ANSWER FOR THIS!
"AND I KNOW JUST THE STOOGE!"
YOU HAVE A CHOICE, MISTER. YOU CAN WALK TO THE STATION ...OR YOU CAN MAKE MY DAY!
YOU GOT ME WRONG, DAREDEVIL. I DIDN'T DO NOTHING!
YOUR DECISION!
RATS! DIDN'T MEAN TO HIT HIM THAT HARD!
HE SEEMS OKAY.
HMM...THERE'S BEEN A SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS WAREHOUSE FIRES AND BOMBINGS THE LAST FEW MONTHS. I MAY HAVE STUMBLED ONTO SOMETHING.
WAIT A MINUTE! I KNOW THIS GUY!

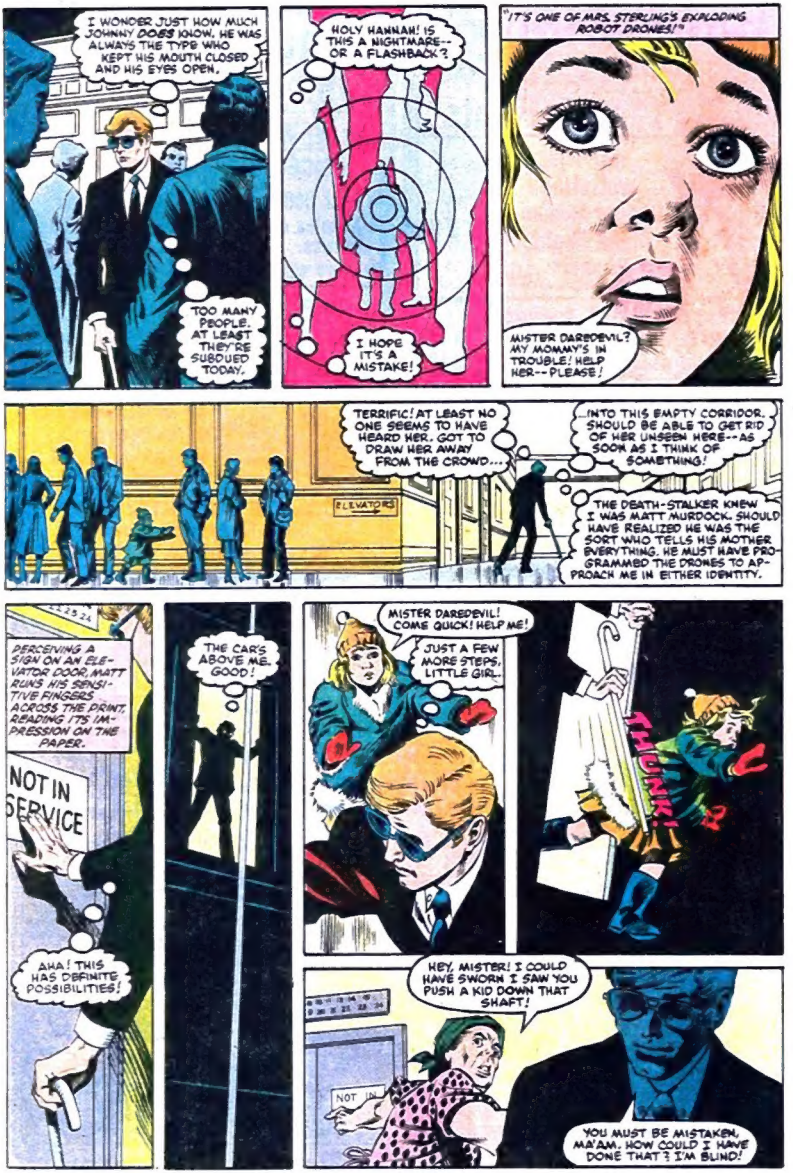
IT'S JOHNNY SQUARE JOHN! HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT HIM FOR YEARS. HMMM, LOOKS LIKE HIS FACE HAS BEEN REARRANGED A FEW TIMES. SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT SOONER OR LATER I'D CATCH HIM IN THE ACT. A PATSY IN A FIFTH-RATE OPERATION. STRANGE....
THE NEXT DAY...
LISTEN, DEBBIE, I'M TOO BUSY! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO ATTEND ANOTHER PARTY.
SO WHO SAYS YOU HAVE TO GO, FOGGY?
WHAT I DO WITH MY TIME NEED BE NO CONCERN OF YOURS!
THAT WOULD BE JUST PEACHY FOR YOU... AND CHIEF MICAH*!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
POOR FOGGY. HE'S MY BEST FRIEND... SOMETIMES MY ONLY FRIEND...
TOO MUCH CLATTERING IN HERE--IT'S GETTING ON MY NERVES...
CAN'T GET MY MIND OFF JOHNNY... OR HOW THAT STERLING WOMAN BORE ME SUCH AN EPIC GRUDGE.**
*RECENT AMOROUS INTEREST OF DEBBIE AND DEADLY ENEMY OF DAREDEVIL--BOB.
**AS SEEN LAST ISSUE--BOB.
YOU'RE ALWAYS TOO TIRED TO DO ANYTHING. ALL YOU'RE EVER INTERESTED IN IS WATCHING TELEVISION!
WHAT'S IT TO YOU? I PAY THE BILLS!
BARELY!
MRS. STERLING PROGRAMMED AN ELABORATE SCHEME THAT BEGAN WITH HER DEATH, A ROBOT MIMICKING A FRIGHTENED CHILD, RIGGED TO EXPLODE, LURED ME--
--TO A PATCHWORK MANSION LACED WITH DEADLY TRAPS. WHAT A TALENT FOR REVENGE SHE HAD!
WITH A MOTHER LIKE HER, IT'S NO WONDER THE DEATH-STALKER TURNED OUT TO BE SUCH A BAD EGG.
STERLING THOUGHT ME RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH. I SUPPOSE SHE HAD TO BLAME SOMEONE.
FOGGY, YOU'RE THE DRABBEST, DULLEST, MOST BORING PERSON I KNOW!
I RESENT THAT!
I DON'T CARE!
DEBBIE! WAIT!
I LOVE YOU...!
TERRIFIC. MY PARTNER TAKES OFF--AND I GET STUCK WITH THE CHECK.
MOMMY... PLEASE HELP MY MOMMY...
CHECK
TIME TO GET OUT OF THIS NOISY PLACE.

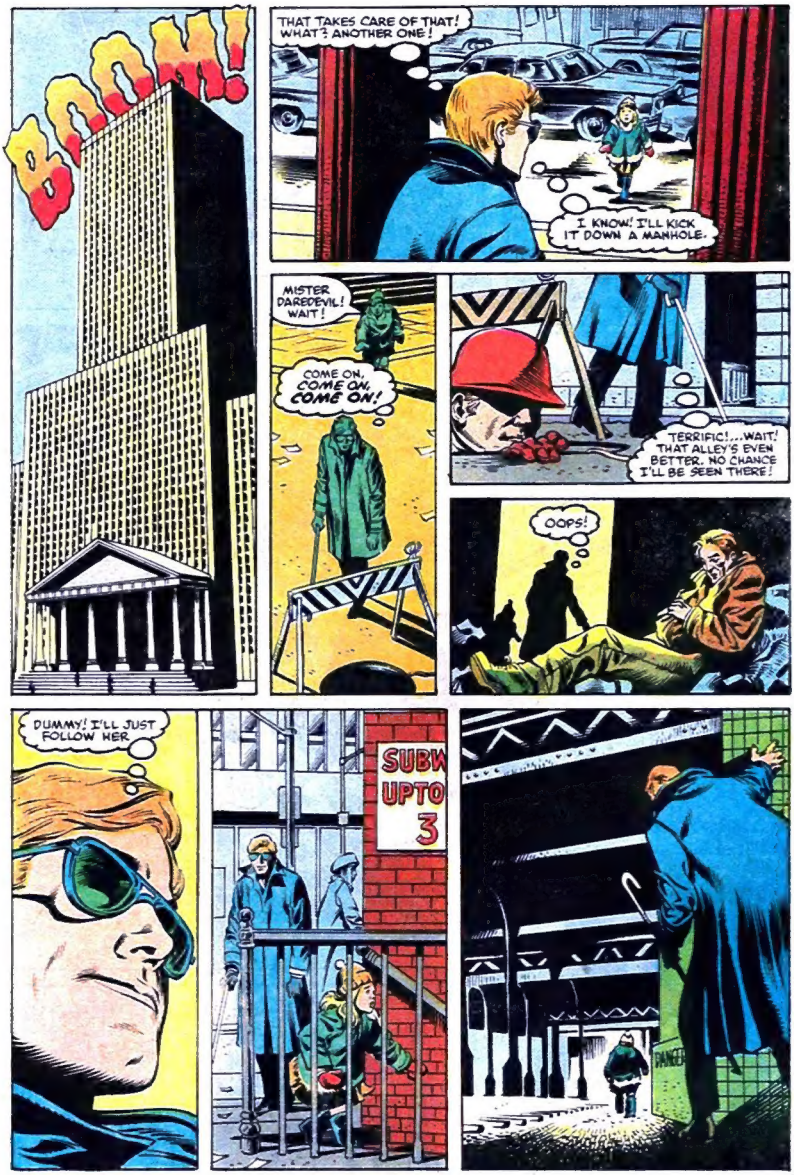
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HONEY? ARE YOU LOST?
CAN WE HELP YOU FIND SOMEONE?
I WANT MY MOMMY. SHE'S IN TROUBLE!
SHE IS? HOW DO YOU KNOW? WHERE IS SHE?
MISTER DAREDEVIL?
WHAT?
IN MOMENTS THE LITTLE GIRL IS OUT THE RESTAURANT'S DOOR...
...AND ON THE STREET.
DON'T WALK
HONK HONK
SCREEECH
MISTER DARE-DEVIL?
BEEP BEEP

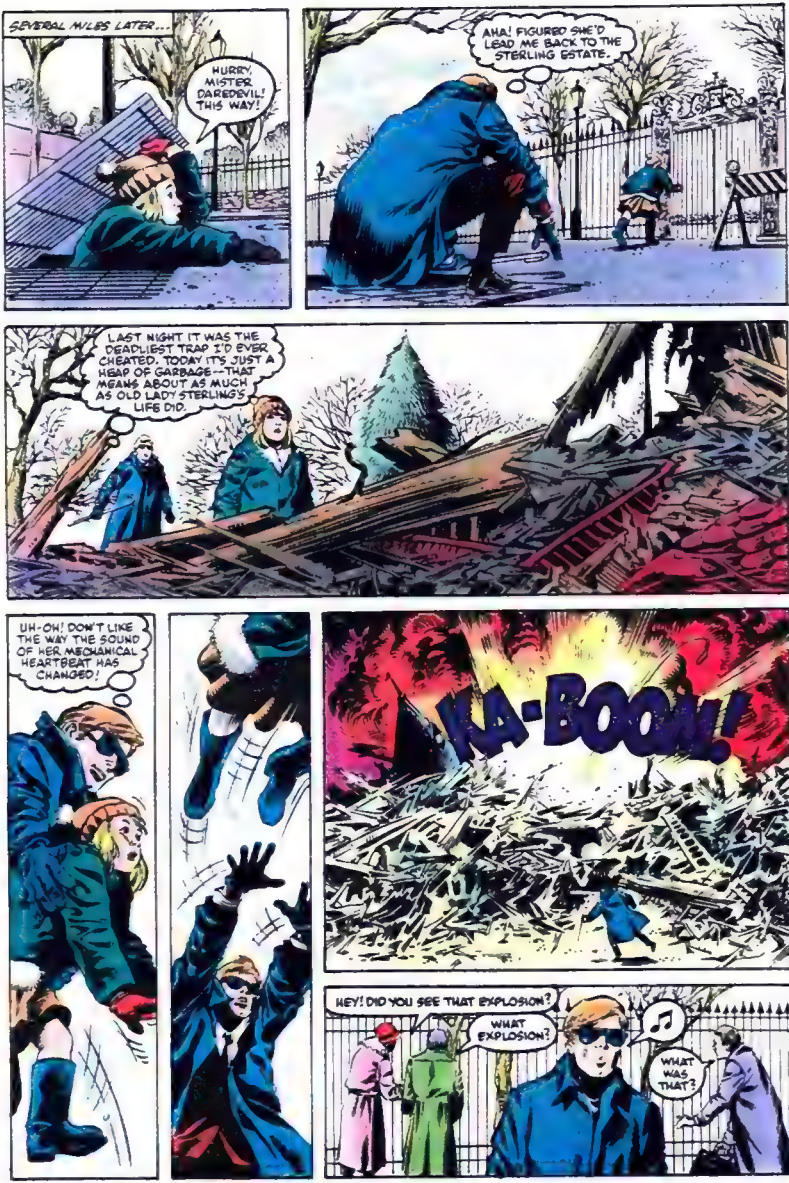
INSIDE THE COURTHOUSE...
BILL, MY CLIENT IS AWARE OF HIS DRINKING PROBLEM AND HAS PROMISED TO ADMIT HIMSELF TO A TREATMENT PROGRAM. I BELIEVE JUSTICE CAN BEST BE SERVED IF...
MURDOCK...
OOPS! HOPE HE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE MY VOICE!
JOHNNY SQUARE JOHN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT?! HE PEGGED ME, NO PROBLEM!
ER...AH...HI, MATT. YOU A SHYSTER NOW? MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME OUT...
JOHNNY QUICKLY EXPLAINS HIS PREDICAMENT...
...ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE FACTS BEND A BIT IN THE TELLING...
DAREDEVIL BLEW IT, MATT! MAYBE SOMEBODY DELIBERATELY STARTED THAT FIRE, BUT IT SURE WASN'T ME! I WAS TAKING A SHORT CUT TO A CARD GAME!
LISTEN TO HIM! I DON'T HAVE TO BE DAREDEVIL TO KNOW HE'S LYING THROUGH HIS TEETH!
I UNDERSTAND, JOHNNY. IT'S TOO BAD WE HAVE TO MEET AGAIN UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.
BOTH ARE AWARE OF WHAT THE OTHER IS THINKING...
...OF THE DAYS WHEN THEY PLAYED TOGETHER AT THE GYM, WHILE THEIR FATHERS TRAINED FOR BOUTS IN THE RING.
AS THEY GREW OLDER, THEY SAW EACH OTHER INFREQUENTLY, AND SEEMED TO HAVE LESS IN COMMON. BUT THE FEELINGS OF DEEP FRIENDSHIP REMAINED...
UNTIL JOHNNY JOINED THE LOCAL GANG!
SO THEY CALL YOU DAREDEVIL, EH?
LOOKS MORE LIKE A TEACHER'S PET, DOESN'T HE, GUYS?
JOHNNY! HELP ME!
SORRY, MATT. IT DON'T HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU. I'M... A BARON NOW.

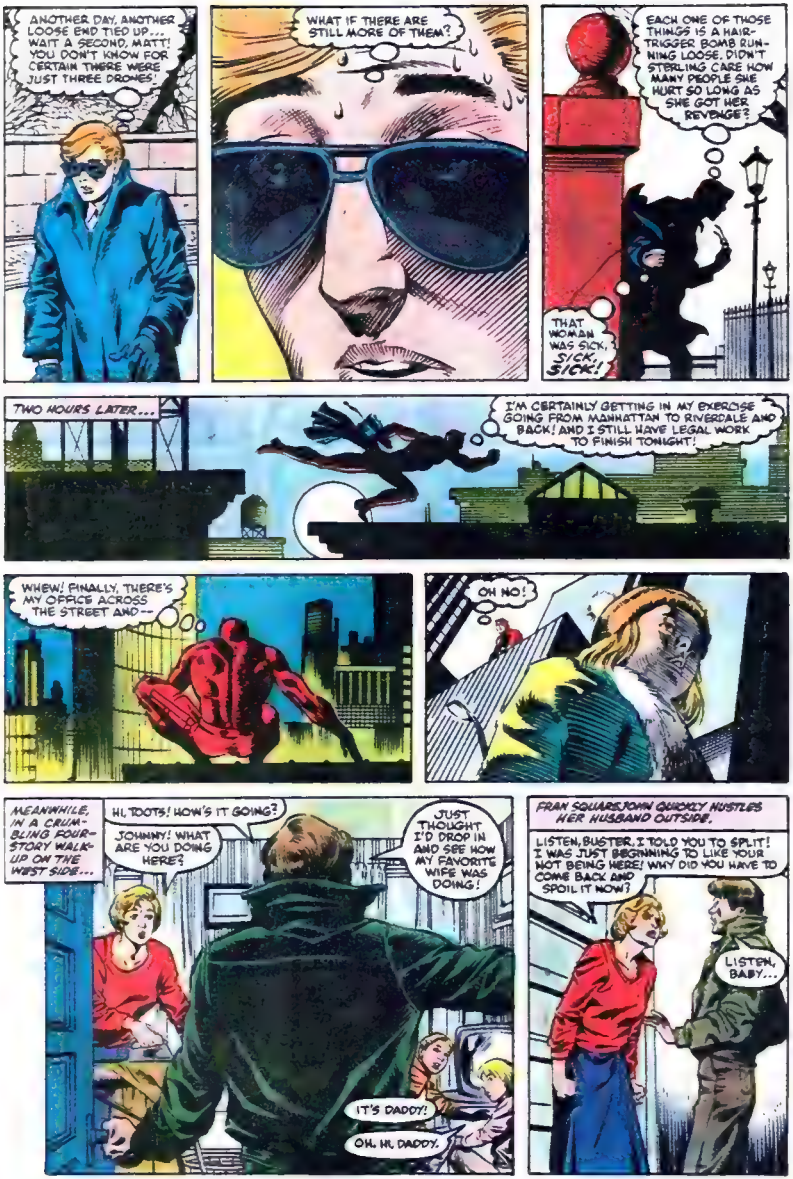
SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, MATT HAD THE ACCIDENT THAT RESULTED IN HIS BLINDNESS.
JOHNNY DID NOT SEE HIM AGAIN UNTIL THAT FATEFUL NIGHT ON A DOWNTOWN STREET...
I'LL HAVE THE MONEY FOR YOU IN A WEEK. I JUST NEED A LITTLE TIME. DON'T WORRY!
WE AIN'T WORRIED, JOHNNY.
BUT YOU SHOULD BE!
WHAT YOU'RE GONNA GET IS JUST A SAMPLING!
CLACK! CLACK! CLACK!
OOPS! A THOUSAND PARDONS, SIR!
HEY! COOL IT TILL THE BLIND KID PASSES!
FREEZE, JOHNNY!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
OOMPH!


THAT'S MATT!
BUT HE'S BLIND!
HOW DID HE DO THAT?
SEE YOU AROUND, JOHNNY.
I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW HE DID THAT.
LISTEN, MATT, CAN YOU HELP ME OUT?
YOU MEAN DEFEND YOU?
I KNOW I AIN'T GOT THE RIGHT TO ASK.
BUT I WANT TO GO STRAIGHT. I'VE GOT A FAMILY--AND I LOVE MY WIFE. I'D DO ANYTHING TO GET OUT OF THIS MESS!
I WANT TO BE THE MAN THEY DESERVE TO HAVE!
HOW 'BOUT THAT! HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH, OR ELSE I DON'T KNOW HOW TO READ HEARTBEATS!
DOES HE HAVE THE STUFF TO GO THROUGH WITH IT?
I CAN'T DEFEND YOU, JOHNNY. I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL ALREADY.
BUT I CAN MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT A FEW ALTERNATIVES.
LARRY, ARE YOU DEFENDING SQUAREJOHN?
YES! ANOTHER CHARITY CASE REPRESENTING A THREE-TIME LOSER!
I GREW UP WITH SQUAREJOHN. WE WERE CHILDHOOD BUDDIES.
YOU'RE KIDDING!
HIS ALIBI HAS MORE HOLES THAN A NET. BUT I THINK HE CAN BE PERSUADED TO POINT UPSTREAM TO BIGGER FISH.
SQUAREJOHN! AWAKE AND SING!
EXACTLY!


I WONDER JUST HOW MUCH JOHNNY DOREE KNOW. HE WAS ALWAYS THE TYPE WHO KEPT HIS MOUTH CLOSED AND HIS EYES OPEN.
TOO MANY PEOPLE. AT LEAST THEY'RE SUBDUED TODAY.
HOLY HANNAH! IS THIS A NIGHTMARE--OR A FLASHBACK?
I HOPE IT'S A MISTAKE!
"IT'S ONE OF MRS. STERLING'S EXPLODING ROBOT DRONES!"
MISTER DAREDEVIL? MY MOMMY'S IN TROUBLE! HELP HER--PLEASE!
TERRIFIC! AT LEAST NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE HEARD HER. GOT TO DRAW HER AWAY FROM THE CROWD...
ELEVATORS
...INTO THIS EMPTY CORRIDOR. SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET RID OF HER UNSEEN HERE--AS SOON AS I THINK OF SOMETHING!
THE DEATH-STALKER KNEW I WAS MATT MURDOCK. SHOULD HAVE REALIZED HE WAS THE SORT WHO TELLS HIS MOTHER EVERYTHING. HE MUST HAVE PROGRAMMED THE DRONES TO APPROACH ME IN EITHER IDENTITY.
PERCEIVING A SIGN ON AN ELEVATOR DOOR, MATT RUNS HIS SENSITIVE FINGERS ACROSS THE PRINT, READING IT'S IMPRESSION ON THE PAPER.
NOT IN SERVICE
AHA! THIS HAS DEFINITE POSSIBILITIES!
THE CAR'S ABOVE ME. GOOD!
MISTER DAREDEVIL! COME QUICK! HELP ME!
JUST A FEW MORE STEPS, LITTLE GIRL.
THUNK!
HEY, MISTER! I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW YOU PUSH A KID DOWN THAT SHAFT!
NOT IN
YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN, MA'AM. HOW COULD I HAVE DONE THAT? I'M BLIND!


B.O.O.M!
THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT! WHAT'S ANOTHER ONE!
I KNOW! I'LL KICK IT DOWN A MANHOLE.
MISTER DAREDEVIL! WAIT!
COME ON, COME ON, COME ON!
TERRIFIC!...WAIT! THAT ALLEY'S EVEN BETTER. NO CHANCE I'LL BE SEEN THERE!
OOPS!
DUMMY! I'LL JUST FOLLOW HER.
SUBW
UPTO
3
DANGER

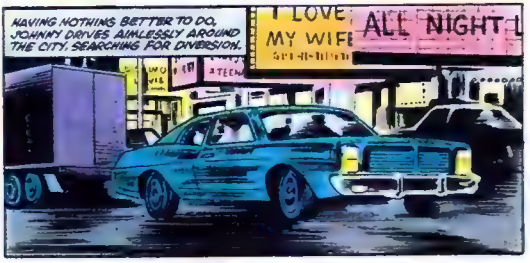

SEVERAL MILES LATER...
HURRY, MISTER DAREDEVIL! THIS WAY!
AHA! FIGURED SHE'D LEAD ME BACK TO THE STERLING ESTATE.
LAST NIGHT IT WAS THE DEADLIEST TRAP I'D EVER CHEATED. TODAY IT'S JUST A HEAP OF GARBAGE--THAT MEANS ABOUT AS MUCH AS OLD LADY STERLING'S LIFE DID.
UH-OH! DON'T LIKE THE WAY THE SOUND OF HER MECHANICAL HEARTBEAT HAS CHANGED!
KA-BOOM!
HEY! DID YOU SEE THAT EXPLOSION?
WHAT EXPLOSION?
WHAT WAS THAT?


ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER LOOSE END TIED UP... WAIT A SECOND, MATT! YOU DON'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN THERE WERE JUST THREE DRONES.
WHAT IF THERE ARE STILL MORE OF THEM?
EACH ONE OF THOSE THINGS IS A HAIR-TRIGGER BOMB RUNNING LOOSE. DIDN'T STERLING CARE HOW MANY PEOPLE SHE HURT SO LONG AS SHE GOT HER REVENGE?
THAT WOMAN WAS SICK, SICK, SICK!
TWO HOURS LATER...
I'M CERTAINLY GETTING IN MY EXERCISE GOING FROM MANHATTAN TO RIVERDALE AND BACK! AND I STILL HAVE LEGAL WORK TO FINISH TONIGHT!
WHEW! FINALLY, THERE'S MY OFFICE ACROSS THE STREET AND--
OH NO!
MEANWHILE, IN A CRUMBLING FOUR-STORY WALK-UP ON THE WEST SIDE...
HI, TOOTS! HOW'S IT GOING?
JOHNNY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
JUST THOUGHT I'D DROP IN AND SEE HOW MY FAVORITE WIFE WAS DOING!
IT'S DADDY!
OH, HI, DADDY.
FRAN SQUARE JOHN QUICKLY HUSTLES HER HUSBAND OUTSIDE.
LISTEN, BUSTER, I TOLD YOU TO SPLIT! I WAS JUST BEGINNING TO LIKE YOUR NOT BEING HERE! WHY DID YOU HAVE TO COME BACK AND SPOIL IT NOW?
LISTEN, BABY...

FRAN, I WANT TO TRY TO GO STRAIGHT AGAIN.
BUT I CAN'T MAKE IT WITHOUT YOU. TAKE ME BACK, PLEASE, AND I PROMISE YOU WON'T REGRET IT.

I'VE HEARD THAT SONG-AND-DANCE TOO MANY TIMES BEFORE TO SWALLOW IT AGAIN!
BEAT IT, FISHFACE!

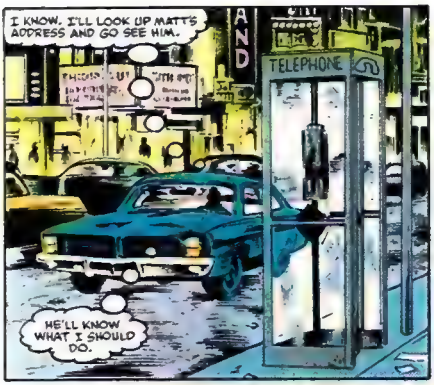
SLAM!
BUT, HONEY...

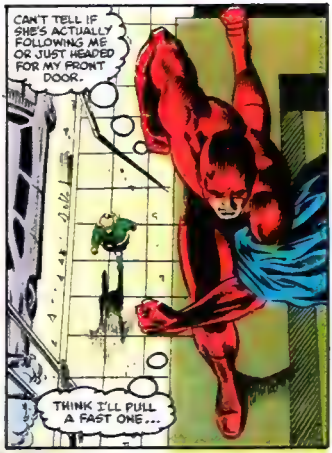

HAVING NOTHING BETTER TO DO, JOHNNY DRIVES AIMLESSLY AROUND THE CITY, SEARCHING FOR DIVERSION.
I LOVE MY WIFE
ALL NIGHT

HEY, SNAKE-EYES! HOW ABOUT A GAME OF EIGHTBALL AFTER YOU MOP UP THAT SUCKER?

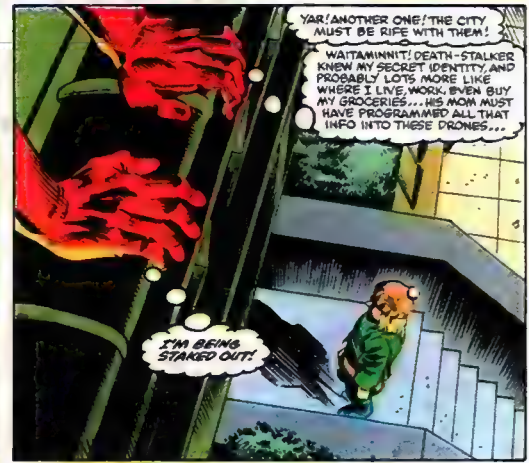
SORRY, JOHNNY, BUT YOU CAN'T HANG OUT AROUND HERE 'TIL YOU'RE ACQUITTED--OR SERVED YOUR TIME!
KINGPIN'S ORDERS!

GREAT. FRAN TELLS ME TO BLOW AND MY ATTORNEY WANTS ME TO SQUEAL. RAT ON MY FRIENDS AND EMPLOYERS--THE ONLY GUYS WHO EVER GAVE ME A CHANCE--AND MAYBE IF I'M LUCKY, I'LL BE A FREE MAN SOMEDAY.
FREE! IF THE WORD GETS OUT, MY LIFE WON'T BE WORTH A NICKEL ON THE STREETS!


I KNOW. I'LL LOOK UP MATT'S ADDRESS AND GO SEE HIM.
AND
TELEPHONE
HE'LL KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.


CAN'T TELL IF SHE'S ACTUALLY FOLLOWING ME OR JUST HEADED FOR MY FRONT DOOR.
THINK I'LL PULL A FAST ONE...

AND JUMP HOME THE BACK WAY!


YAR! ANOTHER ONE! THE CITY MUST BE RIFE WITH THEM!
WAITAMINNIT! DEATH-STALKER KNEW MY SECRET IDENTITY, AND PROBABLY LOTS MORE LIKE WHERE I LIVE, WORK, EVEN BUY MY GROCERIES... HIS MOM MUST HAVE PROGRAMMED ALL THAT INFO INTO THESE DRONES...
I'M BEING STAKED OUT!

AHA! THE ONE I FAKED OUT IS COMING DOWN THE BACK ALLEY. I KNOW I GOT OUT OF EYESIGHT RANGE-- MAYBE SHE'S HOMING IN ON MY HEART-BEAT.
THINK I CAN CRACK THIS CASE-- IF I LIVE THROUGH IT!

THIS IS MATT'S BLOCK...
WHAT THE--?
IT'S THAT BUM, DAREDEVIL!
TWO MORE NEAR MY BANK...
DELI
...AND ANOTHER NEXT TO MY DELI!
HOW MANY MORE ARE THERE?

THERE'S AN ARMY OF 'EM. AND THEY'RE ALL WHINING ABOUT SOMETHING.
HELP ME, MISTER DAREDEVIL! MOMMY'S IN TROUBLE. YOU'VE GOT TO HELP HER! PLEASE!
RIGHT WITH YOU, GIRLS. AT LEAST 'TIL I CAN GET RID OF ALL OF YOU.
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT CRAZY DAREDEVIL UP TO? MIGHT AS WELL CHECK IT OUT.
MAYBE I CAN GET SOMETHING ON HIM. HE'S THE ONLY WITNESS AGAINST ME.
HMMM... HE COULD BE WORTH FOLLOWIN'--
"--OH NO! SHE'S NOT EVEN LOOKING!
"WATCH OUT, GIRL!"
BADOOM!

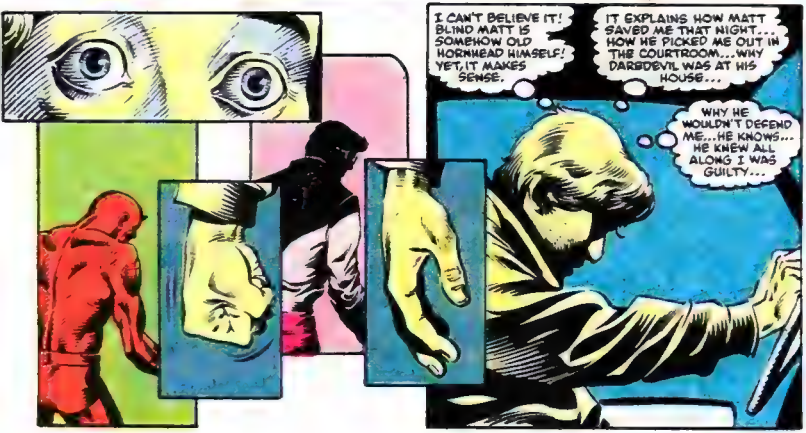
OH NO!!
WHEW! LOOKS LIKE NOBODY WAS HURT!
HEY, DD! WHAT'S GOING ON?
NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE, GENTLEMEN. JUST STAY AWAY FROM THOSE GIRLS.
YOU GOT IT!
AND TELL THE POLICE TO KEEP THE STREETS CLEAR FOR ME. THIS IS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION!
THAT LITTLE GIRL... EXPLODED! THIS GUY'S A LOON. HE DON'T CARE NOTHING FOR HIMSELF. WHAT'S HE IN IT FOR?
HEY, MAYBE ONE'LL EXPLODE IN HIS FACE. THAT'D SOLVE ALL MY PROBLEMS.
NOW THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERYDAY!
NOT MUCH FURTHER NOW. GOT TO CONCENTRATE ...CAN'T MISS ANYTHING.
ANOTHER ACCIDENT COULD BE FATAL!
A SUPER HERO CHASING A TROOP OF BROWNIE SCOUTS!
YOU'RE THROWING SPITBALLS AT A BATTLESHIP, BUSTER.

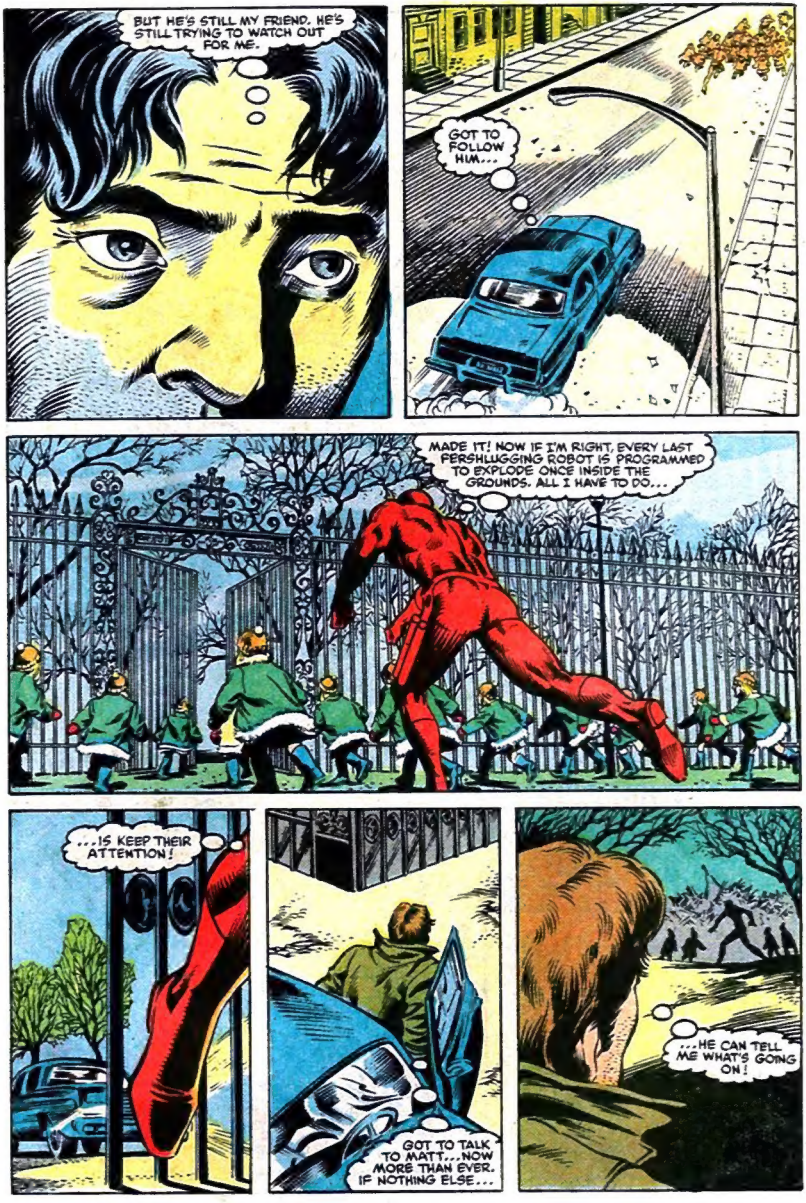
SCREECH!
HEAD 'EM OFF AT THE PASS, DAREDEVIL!
DUMB KIDS -- THEY DON'T KNOW HOW LUCKY THEY ARE!
UH-OH! A MUGGING NEARBY. THAT MAN IS GOING TO GET CREAMED.
CAN'T STAND BY AND DO NOTHING.
SORRY I CAN'T STAY LONG FOR FUN AND GAMES, BOYS.
SHALL I JUST HIT AND RUN?
....INCREDIBLE....

GOT TO WRAP THIS UP! IT'S ALREADY TAKING TOO LONG!

AH...NOW WE'LL SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE, DAREDEVIL!
AND I'VE GOT A FRONT ROW SEAT.

CHOK!


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! BLIND MATT IS SOMEHOW OLD HORNHEAD HIMSELF! YET, IT MAKES SENSE.
IT EXPLAINS HOW MATT SAVED ME THAT NIGHT... HOW HE PICKED ME OUT IN THE COURTROOM... WHY DAREDEVIL WAS AT HIS HOUSE...
WHY HE WOULDN'T DEFEND ME...HE KNOWS... HE KNEW ALL ALONG I WAS GUILTY...


BUT HE'S STILL MY FRIEND. HE'S STILL TRYING TO WATCH OUT FOR ME.
GOT TO FOLLOW HIM...
MADE IT! NOW IF I'M RIGHT, EVERY LAST PERSHLUGGING ROBOT IS PROGRAMMED TO EXPLODE ONCE INSIDE THE GROUNDS. ALL I HAVE TO DO...
...IS KEEP THEIR ATTENTION!
GOT TO TALK TO MATT...NOW MORE THAN EVER. IF NOTHING ELSE...
...HE CAN TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!

ALL RIGHT, GIRLS! I'M HERE! WHERE'S MOMMY?
HELP HER, MISTER DAREDEVIL, HELP HER!
THEY'RE CLOSING IN FAST. SO MANY IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE THEM.
STEADY, MATT. BE PATIENT. WAIT... THEIR HYDRAULIC HEARTBEATS SLOWING DOWN...
IT'S TIME!
LOOK, GIRLS! IT'S MOMMY!
SHE'S OVER THERE!
I'LL LEAVE YOU AND HER ALONE NOW! 'BYE!
GOTTA MOVE... I THINK THEY'RE ALL JUST ABOUT TO EXPL--

KRA-BOOM
--UNNHH!
MATT! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHO...?
MISXXERIX... DARRRREEEWEVIL...
OH NO! ONE'S LEFT ...AND I CAN BARELY MOVE!
WHIR'S MIIIA MOMMZZ...

MATT! LOOK OUT!
IT'S JOHNNY! WHAT'S HE...?
STOP! WAIT!
"JOHNNY!"
AAIIEEE!
JOHNNY! WHY DID YOU DO IT?
I HAD...}COUGH!... TO, MATT... I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME... HAD TO SET THINGS ...RIGHT BETWEEN US. }COUGH!... DID I DO OKAY?
YOU DID FINE... JUST REST... I'LL GET HELP...
COULD YOU...}COUGH!... SEE MY KIDS ARE TAKEN CARE OF...
AND...TELL MY WIFE...I...
I PROMISE, JOHNNY.
GOODBYE, OLD FRIEND.